



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, December 2022

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

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| Project Name: | Emscher Renaturierung II |
| Project Number: | 2015-0917 |
| Country: | Germany |
| Project Description: | 2017 - 2019 investment programme related to the restructuring of a regional wastewater system in North Rhine-Westphalia. |

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

EIB notes the following Environmental and Social performance and key outcomes at Project Completion.

The project concerned the co-funding of the investment programme 2017 – 2019 of Emscher-Genossenschaft (EG), which is part of a larger overall project for the restructuring of the regional wastewater system servicing a population of 2.3m inhabitants in the northern part of the Ruhr Metropolitan area in North-Rhine Westphalia, Germany.

Since the late 19th century, the Emscher River was the open wastewater canal for the area, receiving storm and wastewater from municipal, industrial and mining clients. Through the overall project, the Emscher River is being rehabilitated in order to improve compliance with the EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC and the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 91/271/EC. The overall project includes:

- the construction of a new underground main sewage collector (the “Abwasserkanal Emscher” or AKE) to replace the open sewer system dating back to the beginning of the 20th century,
- the necessary works to connect existing sewage systems to the AKE,
- the construction of stormwater retention structures,
- related Emscher River valley restoration works

The overall project was estimated to be realised between 2008 and 2020. However, some investments are still on-going. This is the third operation for EIB in support of the overall project. The previous operations supported the investment programme from 2010 to 2013 (no ESCS available) and from 2014 to 2016 (see ESCS for [EMSCHER RENATURIERUNG \(eib.org\)](#)). There is also a subsequent operation (2020-0089) co-funding the investment programme 2020-2024 (see ESDS for [EMSCHER RENATURIERUNG III \(eib.org\)](#)).



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According to EG's website¹, the following milestones among others have been reached during this investment programme 2017-2019:

- The tunnelling works with a length of 48 km between Dortmund and Oberhausen were completed in June 2017.
- The 35 km section of the collector between Dortmund via Castrop-Rauxel, Recklinghausen, Herne, Herten, Gelsenkirchen and Essen until Bottrop was put into service in September 2018 as well, as the pumping stations Gelsenkirchen and Bottrop.
- The construction of the remaining 16 km of the collector between Dortmund and Oberhausen was finalised in August 2019.

In addition and in parallel to the above investments, investments have been made to (i) disconnect wastewater discharges into Emscher River (open canal) and connecting them to the underground canal, (ii) construct storm water retention and overflow structures and (iii) related river rehabilitation works.

Several flood retention areas were completed during this investment period, among others the 33 ha area Emscher-Auen (Castrop-Rauxel and Dortmund), which can retain 1.1 Mm³ of water and has become a refuge for many bird species including some protected ones.

The Promoter has produced a brochure about the environmental aspects of the construction works in the project, including its efforts to reduce CO₂ emissions, to improve the ecological value of surface waters in the area, to compensate and mitigate negative environmental impacts during and after construction and to recycle construction waste.²

The project has helped the promoter to:

- reverse the degradation of the natural habitat and turn the Emscher River back into a rich ecosystem with substantial social benefits.
- reduce flooding risks in the area and
- improve the quality of life of about 2.3 m inhabitants living in the area.

According to the German planning procedure, environmental impact assessments including assessments of impacts on nature conservation sites are an integral part of the project approval cycle. Emschergenossenschaft has prepared for each of the project components that require an EIA the relevant assessments. The EIA for the overall project was published on the EIB website on 13 July 2010 in relation with the first EIB loan for the project. The link to this EIA as well as the follow-up EIA decisions related to any changes in the design can be found via the following link ([EMSCHER RENATURIERUNG II \(eib.org\)](https://www.eib.org/en/projects/emscher-renaturierung-ii)).

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from and conversations with the promoter, during Construction that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.

¹ [Abwasserkanal Emscher liegt nun auf Gesamtlänge von 51 km - eglv](https://www.eglv.de/de/abwasserkanal-emscher-51-km-gesamtl%C3%A4nge)

² [Broschuere Umweltmanagement.pdf \(eglv.de\)](https://www.eglv.de/de/broschuere-umweltmanagement.pdf)